

Frontline Staff Leadership Series

Incentive and Consequence Experiments Report Back

* For trash/ scraps left on the floor after snack time, students had to do as many push-ups as there were pieces of trash. It was very effective, and soon, students were reminding each other to pick up after themselves so they all wouldn’t have to do push-ups!
* One site tried giving prizes to one student who needed a lot of extra encouragement to complete “homework.” For every two “homework” pieces brought back, a prize would be earned. It was very effective at first, but then seemed to be tapering off with less work brought back.
* Letting students stay back and help clean up the kitchen after cooking class actually worked better than giving food rewards had, because the students really wanted and cherished the one-on-one time with staff.
* Physical separation/ working alone during homework time was an effective way to keep more kids on task. But they found that the reward of an extra snack at the end of the day for those who behaved seemed to be an even stronger motivator for kids.
* PBIS- one site found that aligning with this school-day practice that the kids are already used to for rewarding positive behavior was an effective practice.
* “State of the Art Answers” – sometimes, the best incentives are not material, but rather the motivation to do something that will earn positive feedback/ praise!